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VIA EMAIL

FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

February 22, 2005

Stuart Baum, Ph.D
Patent Examiner
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: U.S.S.N. 09/779,957 "*Multi-Gene Expression Constructs
Containing Modified Inteins*" Kristi D. Snell

Dear Stuart:

Further to our telephone conversations of February 16, 2005 and February 22, 2005, I enclose proposed amendments to claims 1, 7, 15, 21, and 24 (Appendix I). The amendments reflect changes made to the version of the claims submitted with the Amendment, filed on January 24, 2005.

Claims 1 and 15, as proposed to be amended, recite that at least one amino acid residue is substituted in, or added to, the intein splicing unit so that the excised exteins are not ligated by the intein. Support for this amendment can be found on page 7, line 29 to page 9, line 23, and specifically on page 9, lines 1-2. The proposed claims also recite that the intein splicing unit comprises two or more extein sequences encoding separate proteins. Support for this amendment can be found on page 2, lines 13-15.

Claims 7 and 21 have been amended to correct antecedent basis.

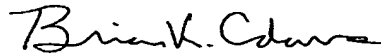
Claim 24 has been amended to recite that the intein splicing unit expression product prevents the ligation reactions normally associated with protein splicing. Support for this amendment can be found on page 2, lines 25-27. The amendment to claim 24 was unintentionally left out in our Amendment, filed on January 24, 2005. Please see the last paragraph of Remarks section.

Stuart Baum, Ph.D.
February 22, 2005
Page 2

Please contact Patrea Pabst or me if you have any questions. Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

PABST PATENT GROUP LLP

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Brian K. Adams".

Brian K. Adams, Ph.D.

Enclosures
c: Patrea L. Pabst